

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05156 031749Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /079 W
-----031805Z 057400 /53

O 031706Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 1878

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5156

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ERTD, UY, CO, EC
SUBJ: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON HANDBAGS

REF: STATE 127879

1. AS ADDRESSEES ARE ALREADY AWARE, THE COUNTERVAILING
DUTY INVESTIGATION COULD HARDLY HAVE COME AT A WORSE TIME.
FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE IN BOGOTA, WE DO NOT PERCEIVE ANY COURSE
OF ACTION WHICH WOULD REALLY ELIMINATE THE RISK THAT THE
ISSUE COULD CLOUD THE VISIT OF MRS. CARTER. ON BALANCE,
HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE NOT RPT NOT TO
RAISE IT DURING THE VISIT AND INSTEAD LET THE EMBASSY
HANDLE THIS MATTER AT A SENIOR WORKING LEVEL SHORTLY
AFTER MRS. CARTER'S DEPARTURE.

2. THERE ARE ALREADY QUITE A NUMBER OF TROUBLESOME ISSUES
THAT MAY COME UP DURING MRS. CARTER'S CONVERSATION WITH THE
PRESIDENT, IF WE JUDGE CORRECTLY. WHILE WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING
THAT THEY SIMPLY EXCHANGE INSUBSTANTIAL PLEASANTRIES, WE
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PRESUME THAT BOTH SIDES ARE BASICALLY AIMING AT A POSITIVE
AND GENERALLY AGREEABLE CONVERSATION. INJECTING THE
COUNTERVAILING DUTY ISSUE WILL NOT SERVE THAT PURPOSE.
MORE IMPORTANT, THERE IS A SERIOUS RISK THAT IT
COULD BECOME MIXED WITH OTHER ISSUES, IN THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW,
AND BE MISTAKENLY REGARDED AS AN ELEMENT OF
USG PRESSURE. HE COULD VIEW IT AS A THREAT

HANGING OVER THE GOC RELATED TO OTHER MATTERS ON WHICH WE WANT HIM TO MOVE AND WHICH MRS. CARTER MAY PLAN TO RAISE. CONSEQUENTLY WE WOULD FAVOR SEPARATING THIS ISSUE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FROM THOSE OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE US SIDE INTENDS TO BRING UP DURING MRS. CARTER'S CALL.

3. IF THIS COURSE OF ACTION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ADDRESSEES, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT AMBASSADOR TODMAN DISCUSS THE COUNTER-VAILING DUTY ISSUE IN A SEPARATE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH WE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE FOR THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 9, PERHAPS FOLLOWING THE TIME OF MRS. CARTER'S VISIT TO THE CHANCERY. IF DESIRED, WE COULD HAVE READY A SPANISH AIDE MEMOIRE COVERING THE TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL WHICH COULD BE GIVEN TO LIEVANO TO MAKE SURE THAT HE GRASPED AND RETAINED OUR ENTIRE MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT.
DREXLER

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